

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 04636 020839Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /030 W

-----021135 108509 /22

R 020747Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9720

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 4636

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJ: RTG LABOR POLICY

REF: BANGKOK 3276

1. SUMMARY: IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, RTG HAS TAKEN MORE CONCILIATORY PUBLIC POSTURE TOWARD ORGANIZED LABOR. IN SERIES OF RECENT PUBLIC APPEARANCES, GHIH LEVEL RTG OFFICIALS HAVE WARNED EMPLOYERS TO BE FAIR TO THEIR WORKERS AND OPENED UP DIALOGUE WITH LEADERS OF ORGANIZED LABOR. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEB 16 GEN KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN APPEALED TO 200 BUSINESSMEN FROM EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THAILAND NOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EMPLOYEES BY UNILATERALLY CHANGING CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT DURING PERIOD WHEN STRIKES ARE BANNED UNDER MARTIAL LAW. HE ADDED, "WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO ABOLISH EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS OR LABOR UNIONS AS WE STILL SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR EXISTENCE... LABOR AND MANAGEMENT STILL HAVE ALL THE RIGHTS GIVEN THEM UNDER THE LABOR LAW."

3. ON FEB 22 PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAIWICHIAN ASKED 400 BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS FROM THE BOARD OF TRADE AND ASSOCIATION OF THAI INDUSTRIES "TO BE FAIR TO THEIR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 04636 020839Z

EMPLOYEES." HE SAID, "THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE NEUTRAL AND JUST IN CONFLICTS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ... DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE (OF LABOR) BUT SEEK COMPROMISE."

4. ON FEB 21 GEN SOEM NANAKORN, PEACE KEEPING DIRECTOR OF BANGKOK, MET WITH SIX LABOR UNION PRESIDENTS LED BY SUNTHON KAEONET, PRESIDENT OF THE EXPRESS TRANSPORT ORGANIZATION.

THE LABOR LEADERS REQUESTED RTG TO LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON HOLDING LABOR SEMINARS AND ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROPOSED REVISION OF THE LABOR RELATIONS ACT. THE FOLLOWING DAY SUNTHON LED ANOTHER DELEGATION OF 12 LABOR LEADERS TO MEET WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR KUNANG LUCHAI. ACCORDING TO GANGKOK POST NEWS REPORT SUNTHON WAS PLEASED WITH BOTH MEETINGS. HE SAID THAT MILITARY AND GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES AGREED TO EASE BAN ON SEMINARS AND MEETINGS AND THAT "THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PROPOSE ANY LEGISLATION TO PARLIAMENT CONCERNING LABOR WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH LABOR LEADERS."

5. IN LATEST DEVELOPMENT AAFLI REPRESENTATIVE SUANZO INFORMED EMBASSY THAT AAFLI AND TWO CO-SPONSORING THAI ORGANIZATIONS WERE PERMITTED TO HOLD LABOR SEMINAR FEBRUARY 25-27 ON THEME "WOMEN WORKERS." POLICE PERMIT, WHICH WAS PENDING AT TIME SUAZO ADVISED BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO SUSPEND LABOR SEMINARS (SEE REFTTEL), WAS GRANTED AT LAST MOMENT. SUAZO CREDITS CO-SPONSOR STATUS OF WOMEN PROMOTION GROUP WITH OBTAINING OFFICIAL APPROVAL THROUGH EFFORTS OF WELL CONNECTED MEMBERS.

6. KHUNYING SUKON CHALOYU, AN ACTIVE MEMBER IN STATUS OF WOMEN PROMOTION GROUP AND WIFE OF ADM SA-NGAT CHALOYU, PRESIDED OVER OPENING CEREMONY AT "WOMEN WORKERS" SEMINAR. GEN KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN WAS GUEST SPEAKER AT CLOSING CEREMONY AND HANDED OUT DIPLOMAS TO 25 PARTICIPANTS. ACCORDING TO SUAZO, KRIANGSAK, IN CLOSING REMARKS, THANKED AAFLI FOR SPONSORING SEMINAR AND STATED THAT HE HAS "NO OBJECTION TO HOLDING LABOR SEMINARS OR UNION MEETINGS." IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 04636 020839Z

CONFERSATION, KRIANGSAK TOLD SUAZO HE SUPPORTS "STRONG, DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT" AND ADVISED SUAZO "THAT IF YOU (SUAZO) HAVE ANY PROBLEMS COORDINATING SEMINARS LE ME (KRIANGSAK) KNOW." IMPLICATION WAS KRIANGSAK WOULD ASSIST IN GETTING NECESSARY PERMISSION FROM AUTHORITIES.

7. COMMENT: THAI LABOR LEADERS WITH WHOM EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER HAS SPOKEN SEEM ENCOURAGED BY MORE FORTHCOMING POSITION OF RTG TOWARD ORGANIZED LABOR. AT SAME TIME THEY WANT TO SEE PLEDGES OF LEADERSHIP IMPLEMENTED AT WORKING LEVEL BEFORE MAKING ANY FINAL JUDGEMENTS. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT RESUMPTION OF ROUTINE UNION ACTIVITIES, I.E. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND LABOR SEMINARS, CAN OCCUR AT THIS TIME ONLY WITHIN RTG DETERMINED PARAMETERS OF NO STRIKES AND NO PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY UNION LEADERS.
WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR OBJECTIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO04636
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770071-0818
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703103/aaaadmoj.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b05488ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGKOK 3276
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2945032
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RTG LABOR POLICY
TAGS: ELAB, TH, (KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b05488ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009